CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An extruded polymeric void-board for placement between adjacent horizontal layers of bricks to maintain an opening in a lower of the layers, the void-board comprising:

a relatively thin planar element having first and second surfaces having a plurality of parallel ribs extending from and generally transverse to the first side, the ribs having a predetermined height to width ratio and having a height that is less than a thickness of the planar element, the ribs being formed parallel to one another.

2. The void-board in accordance with claim 1 wherein the ribs are formed extending only from the first side.

3. The void-board in accordance with claim 1 including weakened regions formed in the planar element generally parallel to the ribs and formed between selected ones of the ribs so as to provide a plurality of frangible regions for separating the board.

4. The void-board in accordance with claim 1 wherein the ribs are curved, having a semi-cylindrical profile.

5. The void-board in accordance with claim 4 wherein an on center distance between the ribs is about 0.10 inches to about and 0.20 inches.

6. The void-board in accordance with claim 5 wherein the on center distance is about 0.14 inches.

7. The void-board in accordance with claim 1 wherein the height to width ratio of the ribs is about 0.5.

8. The void-board in accordance with claim 1 wherein the void-board is formed from a polyolefin blend with a fibrous or particulate filler material.

9. The void-board in accordance with claim 1 wherein the void-board is formed from polypropylene, polyethylene and a filler material.

10. The void-board in accordance with claim 9 wherein the polyethylene is a linear low density polyethylene.

11. The void-board in accordance with claim 9 wherein the filler material is a cellulose fiber material.

12. The void-board in accordance with claim 9 wherein the void-board is formed having a composition of about 50 percent to about 80 percent polypropylene, about 20 percent to about 40 percent linear low density polyethylene and about zero percent to about 10 percent filler material.

13. The void-board in accordance with claim 10 wherein the void-board is formed having a composition of about 65 percent polypropylene, about 30 percent linear low density polyethylene and about 5 percent filler material.

14. The void-board in accordance with claim 13 wherein the filler material is a cellulose fiber material.

15. A method for forming a bundle of bricks in a 3-dimensional matrix having a height in a y-direction, a length in an x-direction and a depth in a z-direction, the bundle of bricks being transportable by use of a forklift having a pair of prongs extending therefrom, the method comprising:

providing a first horizontal layer of bricks formed;

providing a second horizontal layer of bricks adjacent and above the first layer of bricks, the second layer of bricks having openings defined by the non-presence of bricks at certain, predetermined locations, the openings formed parallel to one another and in the z-direction;

positioning a void-board having a relatively thin planar element having first and second surfaces having a plurality of parallel ribs extending from and generally transverse to the first side, the ribs having a predetermined height to width ratio and having a height that is less than a thickness of the planar element, the ribs being formed parallel to one another on the second layer of bricks, the void-board being positioned with the ribs parallel to the x-direction; and

securing the bundle.

16. The method for forming a bundle of bricks in accordance with claim 15 wherein the bundle of bricks is secured by positioning strapping material around the bundle.

17. The method for forming a bundle of bricks in accordance with claim 16 including positioning corner protectors between the strapping material and the bricks at corners of the bundle.

18. The method for forming a bundle of bricks in accordance with claim 15 including forming the void-board with weakened regions in the planar element generally parallel to the ribs and between selected ones of the ribs so as to provide a plurality of frangible regions for separating the board.

19. The method for forming a bundle of bricks in accordance with claim 18 including separating at least one vertical layer of bricks from the bundle, the bundle being separated along a frangible region in the void-board.

20. The method for forming a bundle of bricks in accordance with claim 16 wherein the void-board is positioned with the ribs oriented downwardly.